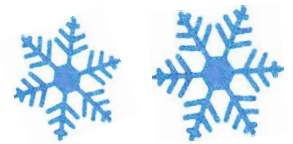


Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District



WINTER EDITION
JANUARY 2015



26032-C Newt Road
Agri-Civic Center
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3059



Conservation Information

Stanly Soil & Water Swears in Three Supervisors

On December 1, 2014 two newly-elected Supervisors, Terry Blalock and Curtis Furr, and one appointed Supervisor, Jody Smith, were sworn in at the Stanly County Board of Commissioners meeting. Representative Justin Burr performed the swearing-in ceremony.

Terry Blalock won his re-election race in November and will serve as Chairman of the Board for the upcoming year, a position he has held since 2008. His tenure as Supervisor began in 2002, giving him twelve years of service on the SWCD Board. His farming expertise is a valuable asset to the Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District. Mr. Blalock, a life-long Stanly County farmer, lives in the Cottonville community.



Curtis Furr also won re-election in November, making him a veteran of six years on the Board. His first term began by appointment in 2008. Mr. Furr, along with his son Chris, is owner of Big Bear Creek Farms, Inc.. An enthusiastic advocate for no-till farming with the use of cover crops, Curtis presented his innovative practices at the National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health in 2014. He lives in the Ridgecrest community.



Congratulations to Jody C. Smith on his first appointment as Soil & Water District Supervisor. He is a graduate of NC State University with a MS degree in Poultry Science. Currently, he is employed with Carolina Farm Credit as a Commercial Ag Loan Officer. His fellow Supervisors elected Jody to the office of Treasurer for the up-coming year.



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District Board Members

Terry Blalock	Chairman
John Pickler	Vice-Chairman
Jody Smith	Treasurer
Curtis Furr	Supervisor
June Mabry	Supervisor
W. Chester Lowder	Advisor

District Board Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. at the Stanly County Agri Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public.

District and NRCS Staff

Grayson Sarif	Cost Share Technician
Rita Little	Admin/Education Coordinator
Nathan Lowder	District Conservationist
Miranda McDaniel	ATAC Admin. Support Asst.
Lin Taylor	Civil Engineer Technician



Conservation Education

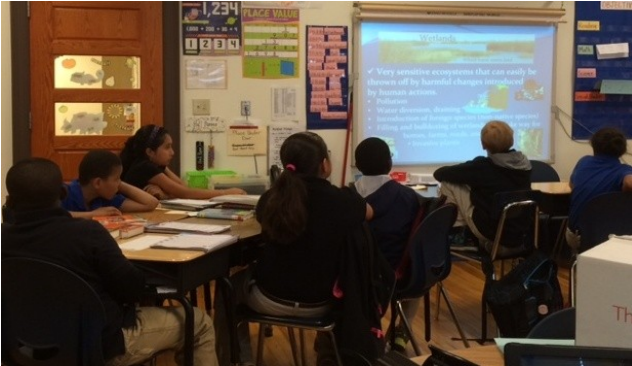
Investing in our future, our children...

Stanly SWCD Education Coordinator, Rita Little, presented educational programs emphasizing wetland conservation to 5th and 6th grade students during November and December 2014.

Total students reached...576



What is a wetland? What benefit do wetlands hold for our everyday lives? Why are Wetlands Wonderful? Those are just a few



questions about a little known but major ecosystem that holds the key to a healthy environment. Through hands-on experiments, students learned the value of these ecosystems that control erosion, flooding and water quality. Wetlands support many animals and plants that cannot live in any other environment. More than twice as many threatened or endangered species live in wetlands than in any other habitat. Wetlands include swamps, bogs, marshes and similar areas. Stanly County students made mini wetland terrariums to remind them of the importance of



protecting wetland ecosystems. For classroom presentations on wetlands, or other soil or water topics, contact rlittle@stanlycountync.gov or 704-986-3059.



District Supervisor Richard Clayton "Retires"

Before December 1st, Richard "Dickie" Clayton probably didn't know what it was like to NOT be a Soil & Water District Supervisor. For 27 year, he served the District faithfully with his time and expertise. At the Board meeting on November 12th, Dickie was honored with a beautiful plaque commending him for his service as Supervisor. Dickie has served as Secretary/Treasurer for his entire tenure. The District also gave him, appropriately, an oak porch rocker signifying an abundance of leisure time that all retirees supposedly have. We wish Dickie well in all his endeavors. Thanks again for your dedication and support to your fellow Supervisors, District employees and citizens of Stanly County.



Annual Tree Seedling Sale

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District's annual tree seedling sale begins on January 12th.

The following species of trees will be available...

White Pine (*Pinus Strobus L.*)

Soft blue-green needles 3-5" long.

Fast pyramid growth with excellent needle retention.

It can be used as a specimen, accent, screen or windbreak.

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus Taeda L.*)

One of the fastest growing of the southern pines.

Good as a screen in the early years and timber at maturity.

Excellent for reforestation.

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Very narrow and compact. Can grow up to 40 feet tall.

Leaves are scaly and green, and very short.

It is a common coniferous species growing on a variety of sites throughout the eastern half of the United States.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

A slow growing tree of moderate size (25 to 50 feet).

It is sometimes planted for its edible fruit and is valued as an ornamental. Fruiting typically begins when the tree is about 6 years old.

Trees go on sale Monday, January 12th 8:30 am - 4:00 pm daily at the Agri-Civic Center until sold out.

Prices:	White Pine	\$2.25 / doz.	Eastern Red Cedar	\$4.10 / doz.
	Loblolly	\$2.25 / doz.	Persimmon	\$1.10 each

For questions or more information contact Stanly SWCD at 704-986-3059 or rlittle@stanlycountync.gov



Ag Cost Share Program still taking applications

Stanly SWCD has \$6,863 remaining unencumbered funds for program year 2015.



The Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) provides assistance to producers in order to install various best management practices that are designed to decrease nonpoint sources of pollution that stem from agricultural practices.

The District accepts applications year round for ACSP assistance. Received applications are ranked against one another and applications with the highest ranking are funded.

The major cause of water quality problems in this area is non-point source pollution. Damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals.

For more information about applying for ACSP funding, contact us at 704-986-3059 or gsarif@stanlycountync.gov.

2014 Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments Requests

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for eligible 2014 commodities.

MALs and LDPs for the 2014 crop year become available to eligible producers beginning with harvest/shearing season and extending through a specific commodity's final loan availability date. Sugar commodity loans for the 2014 crop became available to sugar processors on Oct. 1, 2014.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool, mohair and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

Before MAL repayments and LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution.

Additionally, form CCC-902 and CCC-901 must be submitted for the 2014 crop year, if applicable, with a county committee determination and updated subsidiary files.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form CCC-633EZ, Page 1 on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements.



Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy *The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).*

FSA Informational Meeting—Wednesday, January 7, 2015

The Stanly County Farm Service Agency will hold an informational meeting for producers regarding the new Farm Bill programs ARC & PLC on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 8 am, in the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Now through Feb. 27, 2015: Farm owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election between ARC and PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments issued for 2014 crop year, if needed.

For more information about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Almond, CED at 704-982-5114 extension 2.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact Jennifer Almond, CED at 704-982-5114 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 by January 5, 2015.

2015 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Stanly FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Stanly County:

January 2, 2015: Honey;

January 15, 2015: All Fall seeded Small Grains, Apples, Blueberries, Grapes, Peaches

May 15, 2015: Cabbage, Beans, Potatoes;

May 31, 2015: NAP Covered Nursery

July 15, 2015: Corn, Soybeans, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, CRP, Tobacco, Peanuts, all other crops and land uses

September 15, 2015: Cabbage PP2, Beans PP2;

September 30, 2015: Aquaculture

November 15, 2014: Perennial grazing and forage

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

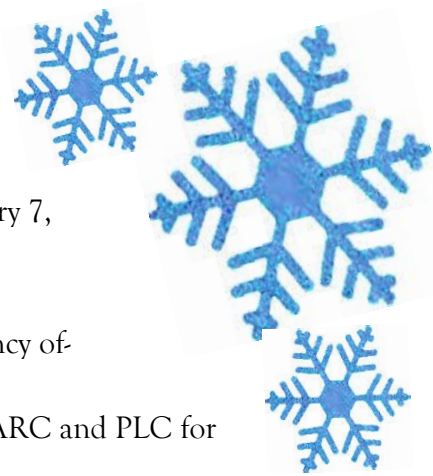
- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease.

Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Stanly County FSA office at 704-982-5114, extension 2.




















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Albemarle, NC 28001
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Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Stanly SWCD would like to thank the sponsors of this newsletter. Without their financial support, this publication would not be possible. Please patronize our sponsors whenever possible. If you would consider helping us cut our production cost by viewing this newsletter on our website, www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water, please call 704-986-3059 or email rlittle@stanlycountync.gov to be put on our email list.

 Crop Production Services Billy R. Lowder Facility Manager www.cpsagu.com Office: 704-982-8496 Fax: 704-982-8500 Cell: 704-791-3589	 BANK of NORTH CAROLINA Main Office: 155 W. South St., Ph. 982-9184 West Stanly: Hwy. 27, Locust, Ph. 888-4431	 ENTERPRISE RENDERING COMPANY DEAD FARM ANIMALS REMOVED HORSES, PONIES, MULES, HOGS USED RESTAURANT COOKING OIL PHONE 485-3018 28821 BETHLEHEM CHURCH RD. OAKBORO, NC 28129 Phone 704-463-1331						
 Crop Production Services Mark A. Smith Facility Manager Office: 704-474-3400 Fax: 704-474-5754	 SOUTHERN STATES Agronomy Service 20506 N.C. 73 HWY, Albemarle, NC 28001 (704) 982-2226 or 2228 Steve Edwards Manager Dennis Phifer Field Associate	 Mauney Feed Mill, Inc. 40255 US Hwy. 52 North New London, NC 28127 KELLY VICK						
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